

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SALT T 00275 081538Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INRE-00

ACDE-00 /026 W
----- 000406

P R 081500Z AUG 75
FM USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2694
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T SALT TWO GENEVA 275

EXDIS/SALT

DEPT ALSO PASS DOD

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR JOHNSON'S STATEMENT OF AUGUST 8, 1975
(SALT TWO - 718)

THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR JOHNSON
AT THE SALT TWO MEETING OF AUGUST 8, 1975.

QUOTE
STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JOHNSON

AUGUST 8, 1975

MR. MINISTER:
I

PARAGRAPH 3 OF ARTICLE XVII OF THE JOINT DRAFT TEXT DEALS
WITH THE OBLIGATION OF THE SIDES NOT TO IMPEDE VERIFICATION BY
NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE
NEW AGREEMENT. AS I HAVE STATED PREVIOUSLY, THE UNITED STATES
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BELIEVES THAT THE MATTERS COVERED BY PARAGRAPH 3 OF ARTICLE XVII

OF THE NEW AGREEMENT REQUIRE A MORE COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH THAN IS FOUND IN THE CORRESPONDING PARAGRAPHS OF BOTH THE INTERIM AGREEMENT AND THE ABM TREATY. SUCH A MORE COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH IS NECESSARY IN VIEW OF THE BROADER SCOPE AND QUALITATIVE LIMITATIONS OF THE NEW AGREEMENT. THE SIDES HAVE HAD EXTENSIVE, AND I BELIEVE FRUITFUL, DISCUSSIONS REGARDING THE OBLIGATIONS EACH BELIEVES ARE ENCOMPASSED BY THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH 3 OF ARTICLE XVII. AS A RESULT OF THESE DISCUSSIONS, AND IN THE INTEREST OF MOVING THE NEGOTIATIONS FORWARD ON THIS ISSUE, TODAY I AM PROPOSING REVISED LANGUAGE FOR PARAGRAPH 3 OF ARTICLE XVII TOGETHER WITH AN AGREED STATEMENT. THIS AGREED STATEMENT IS AN INTEGRAL AND INSEPARABLE PART OF THE U.S. PROPOSAL.

II

THE U.S. PROPOSAL FOR PARAGRAPH 3 OF ARTICLE XVII READS AS FOLLOWS:

"EACH PARTY UNDERTAKES NOT TO USE ANY MEASURE OR PRACTICE WHICH DELIBERATELY IMPEDES VERIFICATION BY NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS AGREEMENT. THIS OBLIGATION SHALL NOT REQUIRE CHANGES IN CURRENT CONSTRUCTION, ASSEMBLY, CONVERSION, OR OVERHAUL PRACTICES. EACH PARTY SHALL EXERCISE ITS BEST EFFORTS TO AVOID MEASURES AND PRACTICES WHICH RESULT IN UNINTENTIONALLY IMPEDING VERIFICATION BY NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS AGREEMENT."

THE AGREED STATEMENT, WHICH I WANT TO STRESS IS AN INTEGRAL AND INSEPARABLE PART OF THIS PROPOSAL, READS AS FOLLOWS:

"THE PARTIES UNDERSTAND THAT THE WORDS 'ANY MEASURE OR PRACTICE WHICH DELIBERATELY IMPEDES VERIFICATION' IN PARAGRAPH 3 OF ARTICLE XVII INCLUDE ANY ACTIVITY WHICH IS CARRIED OUT DELIBERATELY TO HIDE OR DISGUISE ANY DATA, OR OTHERWISE HINDER THE COLLECTION OF ANY DATA, INCLUDING TESTING AND DEVELOPMENT DATA, WHICH ARE REQUIRED FOR VERIFICATION BY NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS OF COMPLIANCE

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WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS AGREEMENT."

III

THE FIRST SENTENCE OF THE U.S. PROPOSAL FOR PARAGRAPH 3 OF ARTICLE XVII, TAKEN TOGETHER WITH THE AGREED STATEMENT, REFLECTS WHAT I BELIEVE IS A MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE OBLIGATION TO BE ASSUMED WITH RESPECT TO DELIBERATELY IMPEDING

VERIFICATION BY NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS. THE SIDES MUST NOT UNDER-TAKE ANY ACTIVITY, THAT IS, MUST NOT USE ANY MEASURE OR PRACTICE, WHICH IS DESIGNED FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPEDING ANY MONITORING REQUIRED FOR VERIFICATION BY NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE NEW AGREEMENT.

WITH REGARD TO THE SECOND SENTENCE OF PARAGRAPH 3 OF ARTICLE XVII, THE U.S. HAS GIVEN FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO THE MATTER OF THE PRACTICES TO BE EXEMPTED FROM THE OBLIGATION OF THE FIRST SENTENCE. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE SOVIET SIDE, THE U.S. IS PREPARED TO AGREE THAT, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE REVISED FIRST SENTENCE AND THE AGREED STATEMENT, CHANGES NEED NOT BE MADE IN CURRENT CONSTRUCTION, ASSEMBLY, CONVERSION, OR OVERHAUL PRACTICES.

FINALLY, AS I HAVE STATED PREVIOUSLY, MEASURES AND PRACTICES MAY IN FACT IMPEDE VERIFICATION BY NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS, EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE NOT DESIGNED WITH THAT OBJECTIVE IN MIND. THE SIDES SHOULD AVOID SUCH MEASURES AND PRACTICES, SINCE THEIR EFFECTS CAN BE AS SERIOUS AS THOSE CAUSED BY ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO IMPEDE VERIFICATION. THEREFORE, THE THIRD SENTENCE OF THE U.S. PROPOSAL SETS FORTH THE OBLIGATION OF THE SIDES TO EXERCISE THEIR BEST EFFORTS TO AVOID MEASURES AND PRACTICES WHICH RESULT IN UNINTENTIONALLY IMPEDING VERIFICATION BY NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT.

IV

MR. MINISTER, I BELIEVE THAT THIS PROPOSAL BY THE U.S. REPRESENTS AN EQUITABLE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF FINDING MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY LANGUAGE FOR THE OBLIGATION OF PARAGRAPH 3 OF ARTICLE XVII.

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UNQUOTE JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SALT (ARMS CONTROL), ARMS CONTROL MEETINGS, SPEECHES, SALT TWO 718
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SALTT00275
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750274-0793
From: SALT TALKS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750869/aaaacjbn.tel
Line Count: 155
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <11 JUL 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR JOHNSON'S STATEMENT OF AUGUST 8, 1975 (SALT TWO - 718)
TAGS: PARM, (JOHNSON, U ALEXIS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006